Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6664

SECRETLAGOS 10234

NODIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY

E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: MESSAGE TO GARBA

REF: STATE 218656

- 1. AT GARBA'S REQUEST, I TOOK SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO HIM THIS MORNING AT DODAN BARRACKS WHERE I FOUND HIM ON POINT OF JOINING PRESIDENT TOLBERT FOR HELICOPTER SHUTTLE TO AIRPORT. GARBA REACTED WARMLY TO POSSIBILITY OF VISIT. NOTING SECRETARY'S REFERENCE TO "LATTER PART OF SEPTEMBER," GARBA SAID HE HAD BEEN PLANNING LEAVE LAGOS FOR UNGA SEPTEMBER 25. THIS WAS THE ONLY POSSIBLE COMPLICATION HE FORESAW IN WORKING OUT MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE. GARBA SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO'S CONCURRENCE BEFORE HE COULD GIVE US AN OFFICIAL GREENLIGHT, BUT HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE US WITH FMG'S AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE "VERY SOON."
- 2. COMMENT: GIVEN ONGOING INSECURITIES AND RIVALRIES WITHIN THE NIGERIAN SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL, I DOUBT OBASANJO WILL FEEL HIMSELF FREE TO MAKE THIS DECISION ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY. I AM CONFIDENT THAT BOTH GARBA AND OBASANJO ARE IN FAVOR OF THE VISIT AND THAT THE SMC WILL GIVE ITS APPROVAL, BUT THEY WILL HAVE TO GO THROUGH CERTAIN MOTIONS FIRST. THIS, COUPLED WITH GARBA'S DEPARTURE THIS MORNING FOR FOUR-DAY VISIT TO SENEGAL, SECRET

SECRET

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MEANS WE MAY HAVE TO WAIT SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE WE GET A FIRM FMG

REPLY. EASUM			
SECRET			
NNN			

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, PREL, NI, UNGA, (GARBA, JOSEPH N)
To: STATE

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